

## CHAPTER NO. 273

## SENATE BILL NO. 1627

By Herron

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1886

By Winningham, Cooper, Coleman

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to public education.

WHEREAS, critical shortages of licensed teachers exist throughout the state in certain key academic fields of teaching; and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers is difficult in such fields; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires that public school teachers of certain key academic subjects be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The state board of education, with the assistance of the commissioner of education, shall study and determine the key academic teaching fields in which there exist the most critical shortages of highly qualified, licensed elementary and secondary teachers in Tennessee. The board and commissioner shall review, devise, and propose alternative plans for recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers in such fields with critical shortages, particularly with respect to recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers in schools or school districts that are low performing. The board and the commissioner shall report such alternatives to the Education Committee of the Senate and the Education Committee of the House of Representatives before the second Tuesday in January 2004.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 19, 2003**



JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2003



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR